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'HIS MESSAGE IN THREE PARTS - PART ONE

UBJ: MEETING WITH BANGLADESH FOREIGN MINISTER ABOUS SAMAD

SUMMARY. IN CORDIAL INTERVIEW INITATED BY HIM, ANGLADESH FOREIGN MINISTER SOLICITED US ASSISTANCE IN CHIEVING FREEDOM FOR SHEIKH MUJIB RAHMAN, ASSURED ME HAT USG "MISSION" IN DACCA WOULD BE ALLOWED TO FUNCTION OR TIME BEING AND WOULD RECEIVE "HONORABLE" TREATMENT, NQUIRED INTO PROSPECTS OF US RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH OVERNMENT (9DG) AND INTO STATUS OF PARTIALLY OMPLETED USAID PROJECTS.

CTION REQUESTED: APPRECIATE INDICATIONS OF TYPE OF ESPONSES. IF ANY, DEPARTMENT WISHES ME TO MAKE POINTS ALSED BY FOREIGN MINISTER:

ON MORNING OF NEW YEAR'S DAY, OFFICE OF BANGLADESH DVERNMENT FOREIGN MINISTER ABDUS SAMAD TELEPHONED TO INSULATE GENERAL TO REQUEST THAT I CALL ON FORMIN AT JON. THIS REQUEST MAY HAVE BEEN RELATED SEVERAL HIGHLY ENTATIVE INFORMAL PROBES BY BENGALI CONTACTS SEEKING CEPTAIN WHETHER I WAS PLANNING CALL ON FORMIN. TO JCH. PROBES ANSWER HAD BEEN GIVEN THAT, IN VIEW OF UNCERSION STATUS OF CONSULATE GENERAL, I WOULD NOT INITIATE BY CONTACTS BUT WOULD CERTAINLY RESPOND IF FORMIN

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INVITED ME.

FORMIN RECEIVED ME WITH GREAT CORDIALITY IN HIS OFFICE N BANGABHABAN (FORMRER GOVERNMENT HOUSE). AFTER EXCHANGE OF NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS, FORMIN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR WIDESPREAD SUPPORT OF AMERICAN PEOPLEM FOR BENGALI SUFFER-ING UNDER MLA AND FOR CREATION OF BANGLADESH: HE CITED NAMES OF SEVERAL SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN WHO HAD ALSO SUPPORTED INAGLADESH BUT SAID HE AND HIS AWAMI LEAGUE COLLEAGUES HAD EEN "SHOCKED" BY WHAT APPEARED TO BE "HOSTILE ATTITUDE" OF RESENT ADMINISTRATION TO ASPIRATION OF BENGALI PEOPLE FOR NDEPENDENCE. WITHOUT DWELLING EXCESSIVELY ON THESE POINTS, AMAD MOVED ON TO QUESTION OF STATUS OF BLOCK CONCULATE ENERAL. HE SAID THAT HE APPRECIATED THE NEFT FOR SOME IME ON THE PART OF FOREIGN POWERS TO DECIDE ON RECOGNITION F BANGLADESH, AND HE ASSURED ME THAT DURING PERIOD WHILE UCH DECISIONS BEING MADE, FOREIGN MISSIONS IN DACCA WOULD E TREATED "WITH DIGNITY AND HONOR" AND WOULD BE PROVIDED HATEVER PROTECTION WAS NEEDED, ALTHOUGH IN LATTER JESTION, HE REMARKED WITH A SMILE THAT HE WAS SURE I AD OBSERVED HOW PEACEFUL AND RELAXED DACCA HAD BECOME N PAST WEEK OR TEN DAYS. TO MY QUESTION WHETHER MISSIONS DULD BE AFFORED FACILITIES FOR NECESSARY MOVEMENT OF RSONNEL, EXCHANGE OFFICIAL MAIL, AND IMPORTATION OF PPLIES, SAMAD SAID HE WAS AWARE OF THESE PROBLEMS AND S SEEKING TO SET UP NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR DEALING TH THEM. HE THEN RAISED QUESTION OF RELATIONSHIP OF G OFFICE IN DACCA TO EMBASSY IN ISLAMABAD. HE SAID BAT BDG HOPFD THAT DACCA OFFICE WOULD NOT CONTINUE TO BE GARDED AS CONSULATE GENERAL ACCREDITED TO PAKISTAN.

THROUGHOUT INTERVIEW SAMAD REFERRED TO THIS OFFICE "U.S. MISSION IN DACCA". AND PRESS REFERENCES HAVE INTAINED THIS STYLE (SEE BELOW). I EXPLAINED THAT HIS ESTION WAS, OF COURSE, TIED IN WITH MATTER OF RECOGNITION, D THAT THERE WERE IN ADDITION, CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE AND HER FACTORS INVOLVED. I MADE POINT, HOWEVER, THAT DACCA FICE HAD AT ALL TIMES BEEN ABLE REPORT FREELY TO WASHINGTON DITHAT HE COULD BE ASSURED THAT THIS WOULD CONTINUE. NMIN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION, BUT REPEATED HIS HOPE AT, AT FORMAL AND OFFICIAL LEVEL, USG WOULD NOT SHOW CCA OFFICE AS CONSULATE GENERAL ACCREDITED TO ISLAMABAD.

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I SAID THAT I WOULD CONVEY HIS FEELINGS TO WASHINGTON, BUT I POINTED OUT THAT OUR VARIOUS DIPLOMATIC AND FOREIGN SERVICE LISTS WERE ISSUED ONLY ONCE OR TWICE A YEAR, SO THAT WHATEVER DECISIONS MIGHT BE TAKEN, THERE COULD BE CONSIDERABLE TIME LAG BEFORE NEW LISTINGS APPEARED. FONMIN SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT, BUT HAD SIMPLY WISHED TO GET THE POINT ACROSS.

5. SAMAD THEN TURNED TO WHAT I SUSPECT WAS MAJOR PURPOSE OF HIS INVITATION TO ME. HE SAID THAT BDG. IN ADDITION TO DIFFICULTIES WHICH IT WAS EXPERIENCING, LIKE EVERY NEW GOVERNMENT, IN GETTING ITSELF ORGANIZED, SUFFERED FROM GRIEVOUS ADDITIONAL HANDICAP OF HAVING ITS CHIEF OF STATE AND ACKNOWLEDGED LEADER HELD CAPTIVE BY "FOREIGN GOVERNMENT". HE SAID THAT SHEIKH MUJIB RAHMAN'S PRESENCE IN DACCA WAS DESPERATELY NEEDED TO HELP RESOLVE PROBLEMS AND INCIPIENT DIFFERENCES OF OPINION WHICH WERE BEGINNING TO SHOW THEMSELVES INSIDE COUNTRY. HE REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO NEED TO DISARM IRREGULARS AND INSTITUTE DISCIPLINE IN VARIOUS "BAHINIS" ALL OF THEM ARMED AND SOME OF THEM SUBJECT TO DIVERSE POLITICAL INFLUENCES. ABOVE ALL, HE SAID, SHEIKH'S PRESENCE WAS NEEDED TO BRING ABOUT COALESCENCE OF NATIONAL SPIRIT AND HARNESS ENERGIES OF BENGALI PEOPLE TO HARD TASKS OF RECONSTRUCTION AND SELF GOVERNMENT. SAMAD SAID THAT HE BELIEVED IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL IF USG WOULD EXERT ITS INFLUENCE ON PAKISTAN AND ON PRESIDENT BHUTTO IN PARTICULAR TO FREE MUJIR IMMEDIATELY. HE SAID FURTHER, THAT IT WOULD GO A LONG WAY TOWARD ELIMINATING "SUSPICIONS AND HOSTILITY" TOWARD USG IF LATTER'S APPEAL TO BHUTTO COULD BE PUBLIC ONE .

SO SAMAD SAID THAT BDG RECOGNIZED NEED FOR SOME KIND OF RELATIONSHIP WITH "PAKISTAN - THAT IS TO SAY, FORMER WEST PAKISTAN": THERE WERE MANY MATTERS, FINANCIAL, POLITICAL, AND OTHERS WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE RESOLVED BY NEGOTIATIONS. BEYOND THAT, HE WENT ON, BDG COULD NOT EXCAPE GEOGRAPHICH MPLICATIONS OF ITS SITUATION AS PART OF SUB-CONTINENT: IT WEEDED TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL ITS NEIGHBORS, INCLUDING PAKISTAN. HOWEVER, HE STRESSED, CONTINUED IMPRISONMENT OF SHEIKH MUJIB BY PAKISTAN WOULD MAKE IT UNNECESSARILY DIFFICULT FOR NEGOTATIONS TO BEGIN ON PRESSING AND MMEDIATE PROBLEMS AND WOULD SOUR PROSPECTS FOR FRIENDLY RELATIONS IN FUTURE. END PART ONE OF MESSAGE.

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